Reclamation

HARVEST APPLES IN THE PEACE.

Beaverlodge, Alta., Sept. 16:- Harvest apples in the Peace River region--not the yellow harvest apple of Eastern Canada but a very fair substitute in Heyer No. 12, a small yellow fruit averaging about two ounces in weight, juicy and good. Like the harvest apple, it drops early and is a poor keeper--but it does not get a chance to keep.

In 1937 two trees of this variety were planted on the Dominion Experimental Station at Beaverlodge, Alta., 429 miles north of the 49th parallel. In 1940 one of them began to bear. Since then both have borne. The two little bush-like trees are now 6 to 7 feet tall and their average annual production per tree is as follows:-

1940	4 ounces
1941	3 pounds 8 ounces
1942	5 pounds 7 ounces
1943	24 pounds 2 ounces

This summer apple is by no means the only bearing one on the Station. There are one or two dozen other apples and scores of varieties and strains of crabs. In 1942 the Station's apple and crab crop totalled over a ton. This year after a trying winter it is again considerable.

Hibernal has been the most dependable apple of standard size, the first tree bearing two apples in 1931. Last year this tree bore 67 pounds and some of the fruits kept till March.

Osman has been the most reliable good crab, excellent for jelly and not bad for eating out of hand. Planted in 1926, one tree of it after a bout with rabbits, which broke through a hole in the poultry netting, began to fruit sparingly in 1935. For the last six years it has averaged 142 pounds, or, say, 3½ boxes per annum.

And there are dozens of other varieties and strains, ranging from ordinary to choice.

Apple-growing in the Peace may never be a commercial proposition but as a domestic effort it is well worth while. If it be worth growing a geranium in the window why not an apple tree, or at least a crabapple tree in the door yard?